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OF THE

ROYAL ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

OF

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Descriptions of three new species of *Drepanosticta* (Odonata) from the Philippine Islands. By J. Cowley . . . . . pp. 157–168

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DESCRIPTIONS OF THREE NEW SPECIES OF *DREPANOSTICTA* (ODONATA) FROM THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

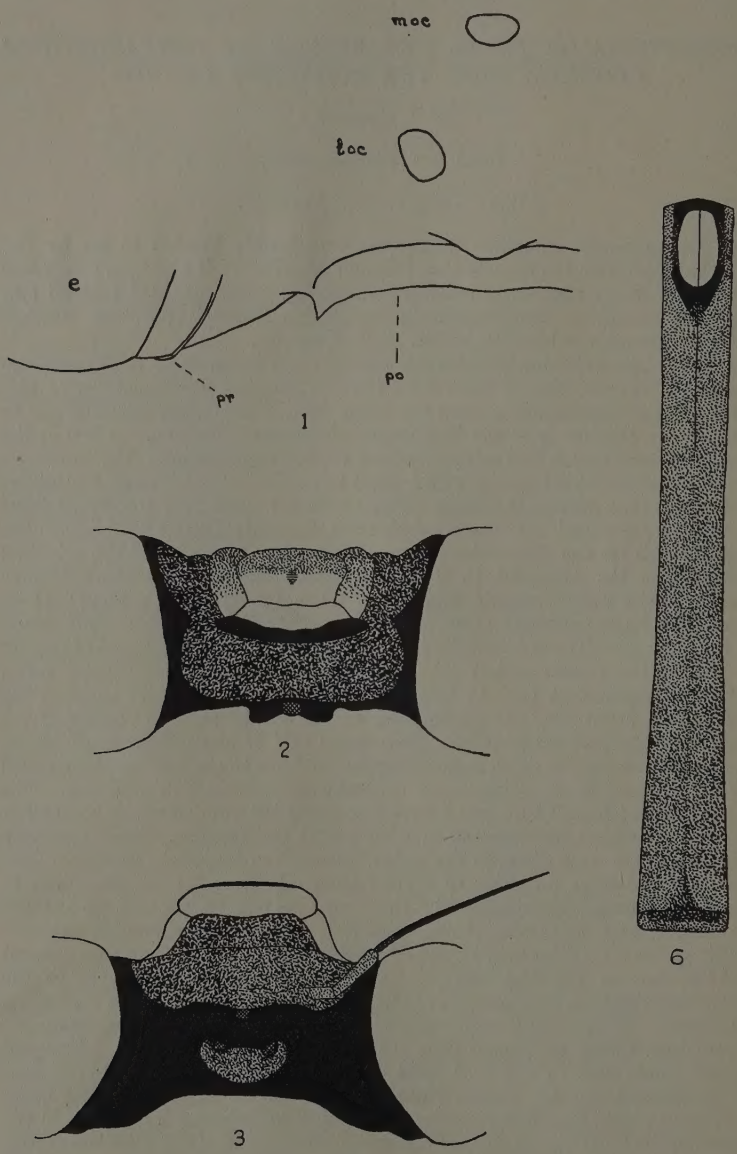
By J. Cowley.

[Read 20th November, 1935.]

With Twenty-two Figures.

The first specimen described below was very kindly handed to me by Dr. F. F. Laidlaw, with the request that I should describe it; it had been recognised for some time by him as an undescribed species. Subsequently I found two more new species of *Drepanosticta* in the British Museum collection, which I describe through the kindness of Mr. D. E. Kimmins.

As it is probable that still further changes will be made to the Comstock–Needham vein notation, I have used the old Selysian nomenclature, as this neither leads to ambiguities as to the exact vein intended, nor commits one to any definite opinion as to the homologies of Odonate venation. A few of the structural terms used in the descriptions require explanation: the *transverse occipital* and *parorbital carinae* of the head have been so designated by Calvert (1931 : 9); that part of the penis called by Fraser (1931 : 68) the dorsal ridge or frill is here called the *internal fold*, after Kennedy (1916 : 327, fig.). The *postsubnodals* are the cross-veins between the median nervure and the principal sector, from the subnodus to the pterostigma, but omitting the subnodus itself and the pterostigmatic brace-vein, when the latter is present; these cross-veins have generally been termed the postnodals of the second series, on the analogy of the antenodals of the second series, but they should logically be named the postsubnodals (abbreviated *psx*), a somewhat shorter term, restricting postnodals (*px*) to the older postnodals of the first series. The Williamsons (1924 : 8) have commented on the disadvantages of counting the number of the postnodals (of the first series) and of using them to designate the origins and ends of veins, and they urged students to use what are here called the postsubnodals, as being more constant in number and position. This course I have adopted here, but I have also noted the number of the postnodals (of the first series) for comparison with earlier descriptions. The transverse veins across the wing distal to the nodus, formed by postnodals, postsubnodals, and the cross-veins posterior to them falling into line, I find convenient to term transversals (abbreviated *tr*); these may be termed, proceeding distally, the first, second, third, etc., transversal (*tr*1, *tr*2, *tr*3—the numerals not subscript, as this is used for vein-branches), according to whether they are apparent prolongations of the first, second, third, etc., postsubnodal—owing to the greater instability in the positions of the postnodals, I do not number them from the latter. Where these transversals deviate from a straight or regularly curved line, owing to a cross-vein not falling into line, they are *interrupted* at that point; but I think that cases where the postnodals are out of line may be disregarded, for the reason stated above. As an example of the term, in Fraser's (1933) fig. 56 of the wings of *Platysticta deccanensis* Laidlaw, in the fore-wing the fourth to sixth transversals are interrupted at the subnodal sector, the seventh and more distal transversals generally interrupted at the postnodal sector (alternatively, and in this case more conveniently, the subnodal sector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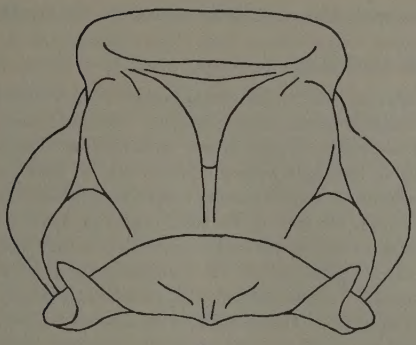
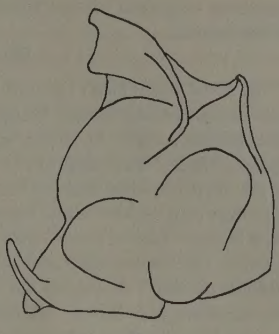
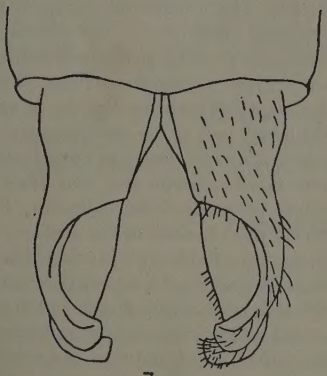
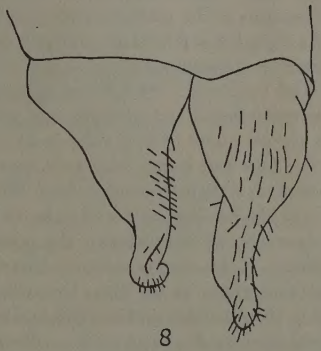
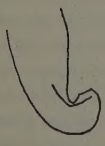
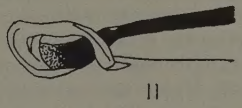


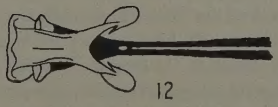












FIGS. 1–12.—*Drepanosticta mylitta* sp. n., holotype ♂.—1, dorsal view of rear of head, left side: *e*, eye; *loc*, left lateral ocellus; *moc*, median ocellus; *po*, postoccipital carina; *pr*, parorbital carina; 2, diagram of colour-pattern of head, anterior view; 3, the same, dorsal view; 4, prothorax, dorsal view; 5, the same, right lateral view; 6, diagram of colour-pattern of abdominal segment 5; 7, anal appendages, dorsal view; 8, the same, left lateral view; 9, left superior appendage, supero-internal view; 10, apex of left inferior appendage, supero-external view; 11, penis, left lateral view; 12, the same, ventral view.

becomes *angulate* at the fourth transversal, the postnodal sector at the ninth transversal).

Drepanosticta mylitta sp. n.

♂. *Head* (figs. 1–3): labium brown; labrum pale bluish cream-yellow with a broad pale brown anterior border, basally with a bluish ovoid median depression; bases of mandibles brown, passing to yellow superiorly; anteclypeus pale bluish cream-yellow; postclypeus black; frons dark brown, vertex black, the black extending anteriorly to the level of the median ocellus and the bases of the antennae, thence passing downwards behind the antennae as a narrow black border to the eyes; the rest of the head black, except for a dark brown reniform spot extending anteriorly to the lateral ocelli, posteriorly to half-way between the lateral ocelli and the transverse occipital carina, the black slightly greenish metallic dorsally, the rear of the head matt-black. Antennae pale yellowish-brown basally, the flagellum pale brown, becoming darker apically. Parorbital and transverse occipital carinae (fig. 1) well developed, the latter with acutely angulate lateral extremities. Eyes brown. *Prothorax* (figs. 4, 5) dark brown, the lateral edges of the anterior lobe pale yellow, the median lobe paler laterally, and the posterior lobe with a black subtriangular basal median spot; propleuron dark brown. The anterior lobe erect; the lateral posterior margins of the posterior lobe produced as triangular projections, directed dorsad and slightly cephalad and laterad, regularly tapered with no apical enlargement or tuft of hairs, in dorsal view appearing about equal to the median length of the posterior lobe, in caudal view 0·25 mm. long. *Pterothorax* dark brown, the mesal part of the mesepisternum and the metepisternum and metepimeron appearing darker, almost black, at certain angles; there are no traces of any paler markings; venter black. Notum and wing-bases pale brown. *Legs* and spines very pale brown, the tibiae becoming darker apically. *Wings* hyaline with a slightly greyish tinge, the costa dark brown, the rest of the venation dark brown to black. Postnodals 15 (left), 14 (right), fore-wings, 13 hind-wings; postsubnodals 14 fore-wings, 13 hind-wings; the postnodal sector arising at the seventh transversal, fore-wings, at the sixth or seventh, hind-wings; the nodal sector arising at the sixth transversal, fore-wings, at the fifth, hind-wings; subnodal sector arising half a postnodal cell distal to the subnodus (in the left fore-wing it arises one cell distal, and there is a cross-vein between the principal and median sectors at the point corresponding to that at which it arises in the other wings), only becoming angulate beyond the level of the pterostigma; median sector arising very slightly distal to the subnodus, extending to beyond the level of the pterostigma; the quadrilateral long, very slightly widened distally in the fore-wings, scarcely appreciably widened in the hind-wings; the distance, from the arculus, of the point of divergence of the principal sector from the anterior side of the quadrilateral less than the length of the basal side of the quadrilateral; two postquadrilateral cells, the first extending slightly beyond the level of the nodus; the lower sector of the arculus becoming angulate at the fourth or fifth transversal, fore-wings, at the sixth, hind-wings, extending to about the level of the distal end of the pterostigma; the upper sector of the triangle ending at the level of the fifth transversal, fore-wings, at the level of the seventh or between the sixth and seventh, hind-wings; lower sector of the triangle meeting the quadrilateral at about one-third of its length, and the postcostal cross-vein at the wing-border. Pterostigma brown, subquadrangular, the proximal and distal sides slightly convex, surmounting one cell. *Abdomen* (fig. 6) pale brown, the last three segments darker brown, and each segment somewhat darker apically, forming a small dark brown ill-defined apical median spot; the basal carinae narrowly black; segments 3 to 6 paler laterally at the base and with a very fine median black line extending the whole length of each segment; segment 1 with no pale markings; 2 with a pale cream median basal spot, subtriangular, the apex directed caudad and reaching the middle of the segment; 3 with a pale cream rounded median basal spot, similar to that on the succeeding segments (fig. 6), but narrowly confluent with the

lateral pale colour and obscurely outlined by brown somewhat darker than that of the rest of the segment; 4 to 7 with a similar pale cream spot, but oval in shape and well separated from the lateral pale colour and outlined by very dark brown or black (fig. 6); 8 to 10 with no pale markings. *Anal appendages* (figs. 7—10; as the terminal segments have collapsed, the appendages are probably not in a natural position, and the figures may not represent the real dorsal, supero-internal and lateral aspects) brown, twice as long as segment 10; the superiors broad basally, with an interior ventrally directed tooth at 0·36 of their length, not visible in dorsal view; exteriorly regularly convex, interiorly abruptly concave at the tooth, so that the broad base is followed by a narrow inwardly curved part, hollowed out interiorly and thicker dorso-ventrally than intero-exteriorly, the apex slightly expanded; the inferior appendages subequal to the superiors, broad at the base and regularly tapered, the apices abruptly turned mesad and dorsad; no specialised tufts of hairs on the appendages. *Penis* (figs. 11, 12): the shaft with spines (not shown in the figures); internal and terminal folds present; the third segment narrower than long, produced apically on each side into a broad filament directed dorsad and slightly cephalad, the ends of the filaments each forming a large flat ovoid plate with a fine interior caudally directed projection. *Length* of abdomen (including appendages), 29·5 mm.; length of hind-wing, 19 mm.; costal length of pterostigma, hind-wing, 0·85 mm.

♀ unknown.

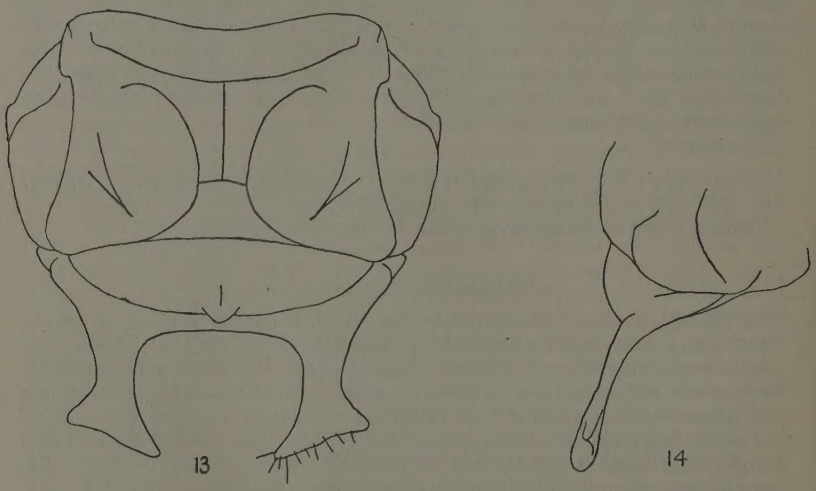
HOLOTYPE: 1 ♂, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: Borongan, Samar (*C. F. Baker*). The type will be deposited in the British Museum.

Comparative notes are given under *D. megametta*, below.

Drepanosticta lymetta sp. n.

♂ (Holotype). *Head*: labium pale brown; labrum and anteclypeus pale cream, the labrum with a narrow anterior pale brown border; bases of mandibles pale brown; postclypeus dark shining brown; frons dark brown, vertex black, the black extending anteriorly to the level of the median ocellus and the bases of the antennae, thence passing downwards behind the antennae as a narrow black border to the eyes (similar to *D. mylitta*, *cf.* fig. 3, but with no brown reniform median postocellar spot); an exterior brown spot against each lateral ocellus, smaller than the ocellus; the rest of the head black, posteriorly matt black. Antennae pale yellow basally, the flagellum pale brown, becoming darker apically. Parorbital and transverse occipital carinae well developed, the latter with acutely angulate lateral extremities, similar in form to that of *D. mylitta* (*cf.* fig. 1). Eyes brown. *Prothorax* (figs. 13, 14) brown, the anterior lobe paler, the median lobe darker, the posterior lobe dark brown, the posterior processes light brown; propleuron brown. The anterior lobe erect; the posterior margin of the posterior lobe produced as two caudally directed processes extending dorsally over the pterothorax, 0·47 mm. long, in dorsal view flat, narrowed medially, the minimum width 0·12 mm., the mesal and lateral corners of the apex subangulate, the mesal angle longer, directed caudo-mesad, the lateral angle directed caudo-laterad, giving each process a resemblance to a boot; in lateral view the processes appear subcylindrical, the apex slightly enlarged; no specialised tufts of hairs on the processes. *Pterothorax* dark brown, the dorsal carina narrowly black; the metepisternum and metepimeron darker ventrally, lighter dorsally; there are no traces of any paler markings; venter darker brown, paler caudally. Notum and wing-bases pale brown. *Leg* and spines pale yellowish-brown. *Wings* hyaline, the venation brown. Postnodals and postsubnodals 14, fore-wings, 13 (left), 12 (right), hind-wings; postnodal sector arising at the sixth transversal, fore-wings, at the fifth, hind-wings; nodal sector arising at the seventh transversal, fore-wings, at the sixth, hind-wings; subnodal sector arising half a postnodal cell distal to the subnodus, only becoming angulate beyond or at the level of

the distal end of the pterostigma; median sector arising at the subnodus, extending to beyond the level of the pterostigma; quadrilateral long, very slightly widened distally in the fore-wings, less so in the hind-wings; the distance, from the arculus, of the point of divergence of the principal sector from the anterior side of the quadrilateral less than the length of the basal side of the quadrilateral (in the left hind-wing equal to the basal side); two postquadrilateral cells, the first extending to about the level of the nodus; lower sector of the arculus becoming angulate at the fifth or fourth transversal, fore-wings, at the sixth, hind-wings, extending to about the level of the distal end of the pterostigma; upper sector of the triangle ending between the fourth and fifth transversals, fore-wings, at the level of the sixth or between the sixth and seventh, hind-wings; lower sector of the triangle meeting the quadrilateral at about one-fourth of its length, and the postcostal cross-vein at the wing-border. Pterostigma brown, subquadrangular, surmounting one cell. *Abdomen* (apex



Figs. 13–14.—*Drepanosticta lymetta* sp. n., holotype ♂, prothorax.—13, dorsal view; 14, right lateral view of posterior lobe.

of segment 5 and 6–10 missing) brown, the base of segment 1 paler dorsally, 2 with no pale markings, 3 to 5 each with a pale yellow basal ring, almost interrupted laterally by an obscure extension of the apical brown, further laterad to this the yellow again extending apically, merging insensibly into the brown, the pale ring occupying the basal 0·15 of 3, 0·19 of 4. *Penis* similar to that of *D. mylitta* (*cf.* figs. 11, 12), but the third segment narrower, and the terminal plate of the filament elongate ovoid without any internal caudal projection; shaft spines absent (or very small). *Length* of abdominal segments 1–4, 12 mm.; length of hind-wing, 20 mm.; costal length of pterostigma, hind-wing, 0·93 mm.

The paratype ♂ (head and abdominal segments 3–10 missing) only differs as follows from the above description :—

The posterior processes of the prothorax 0·44 mm. long, their minimum width 0·09 mm.; postnodals and postsubnodals 15, 14, fore-wings, 14, 13, hind-wings; postnodal sector arising at the sixth transversal, hind-wings; nodal sector arising at the eighth or seventh, fore-wings, at the seventh, hind-wings; median sector arising slightly distal to the

subnodus; lower sector of arculus becoming angulate at the fourth or between the fourth and fifth transversal, fore-wings, at the fifth or sixth, hind-wings; upper sector of triangle ending between the third and fourth or at the fourth, fore-wings, between the fifth and sixth, hind-wings; abdominal segment 2 with a small basal dorsal triangular yellow spot, extending about one-fifth of the segment's length. Length of hind-wing, 19 mm.; costal length of pterostigma, hind-wing, 0·93 mm.

♀ unknown.

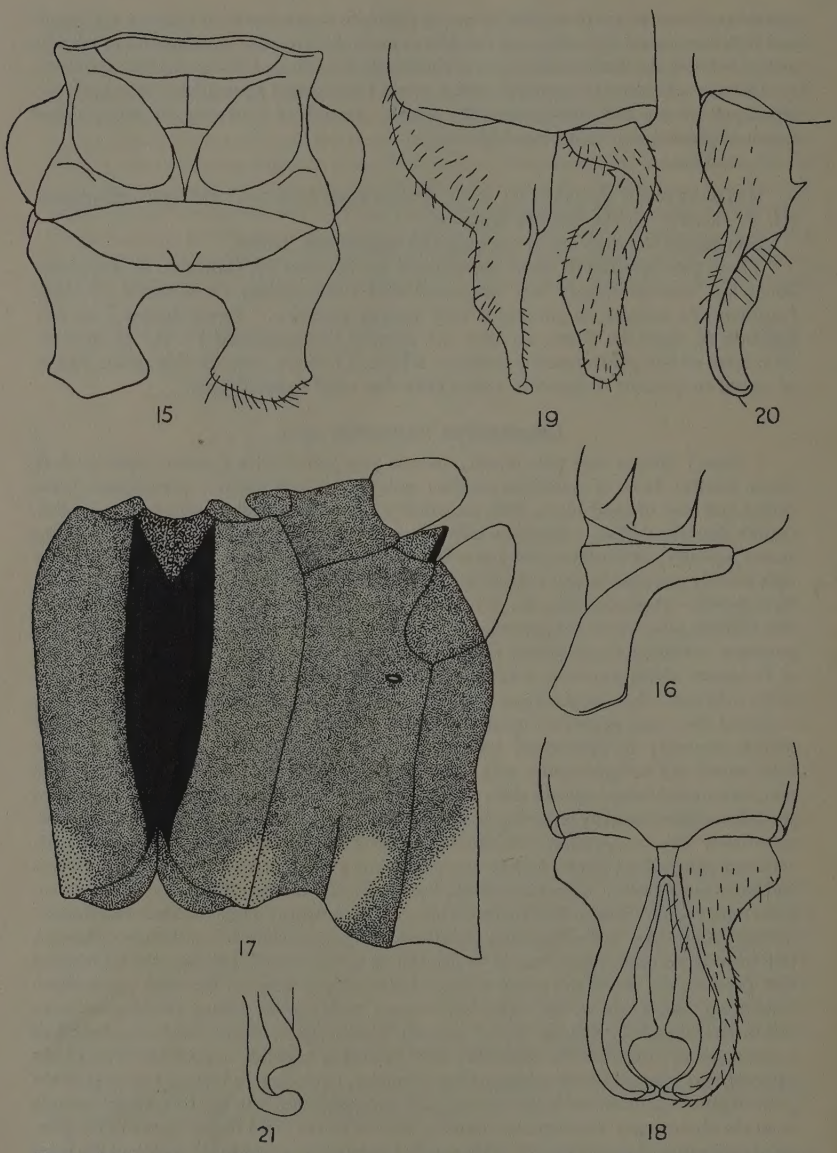
HOLOTYPE and PARATYPE : 2 ♂♂, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS : Surigao, Mindanao (*C. F. Baker*); in the British Museum.

Comparative notes are given under *D. megametta*, below.

These two specimens were determined by the late H. Campion as *Drepanosticta* sp., and evidently left unnamed and undescribed on account of their fragmentary nature, in general a very proper practice. Nevertheless I do not hesitate to describe them, as they are readily distinguished by the characteristic form of the prothoracic processes, which, I believe, may in this group prove of equal or greater diagnostic value than the anal appendages.

Drepanosticta megametta sp. n.

♂. *Head*: labium very pale brown; labrum pale yellow with a narrow anterior dark brown border; bases of mandibles similar; anteclypeus pale yellow; postclypeus, frons, vertex and rear of head black, with an exterior brown spot against each lateral ocellus, smaller than the ocellus. Antennae pale yellowish-brown basally, the flagellum becoming darker apically. Parorbital and transverse occipital carinae well developed, the latter with acutely angulate lateral extremities, similar in form to that of *D. mylitta* (*cf.* fig. 1). Eyes brown. *Prothorax* (figs. 15, 16) brown, the median lobe paler; propleuron brown. The anterior lobe erect; the posterior lobe produced posteriorly as two caudally directed processes, extending dorsally over the pterothorax, in dorsal view twice as broad as those of *D. lymetta*, slightly convex, 0·42 mm. long, only slightly narrowed medially, minimum width 0·23 mm., the apical corners rounded, only the external corner slightly projecting; in lateral view they appear as broad flat plates with the lateral exterior margins arched slightly ventrad; no specialised tufts of hairs on the processes. *Pterothorax* (fig. 17) dark brown, the mesepisternum with a black stripe against the dorsal carina, about 0·35 mm. wide at mid-height on each side; the mesepimeron paler brown dorsally and anteriorly, the paler colour extending on to the dorsal posterior corner of the mesepisternum; the metepisternum with a pale yellow ovoid dorso-anterior spot; about the dorsal third of the metepimeron pale yellow; venter dark brown, pale yellow caudally ? (obscured by glue). Notum and wing-bases brown. *Legs* pale yellow, the spines pale brown. *Wings* hyaline, the venation dark brown. Postnodals 15, fore-wings, 13, hind-wings; postsubnodals 14, left fore-wing, 13, hind-wings (in the right hind-wing there is no postsubnodal below the first postnodal, but there is an extra postsubnodal, continued as a transversal, between the fourth and fifth postnodals); postnodal sector arising at the sixth or between the sixth and seventh transversal, fore-wings, at the sixth, hind-wings; nodal sector arising at the seventh or eighth transversal, fore-wings, at the seventh, hind-wings; subnodal sector arising half a postnodal cell distal to the subnodus, only becoming angulate beyond the level of the pterostigma; median sector arising at the subnodus, extending to beyond the level of the pterostigma; quadrilateral long, very slightly widened distally in the fore-wings, scarcely so in the hind-wings; the distance, from the arculus, of the point of divergence of the principal sector from the anterior side of the quadrilateral about equal to the length of the basal side of the quadrilateral in the left wings, slightly less in the right wings; two postquadrilateral cells, the first extending to the level of the nodus; lower sector of the arculus becoming angulate at the fourth or fifth transversal, fore-wings, at the sixth, hind-wings,



FIGS. 15–21.—*Drepanosticta megametta* sp. n., holotype ♂.—15, prothorax, dorsal view; 16, the same, right lateral view of posterior lobe; 17, diagram of colour-pattern of pterothorax; 18, anal appendages, dorsal view; 19, the same, left lateral view; 20, left superior appendage, supero-internal view; 21, apex of left inferior appendage, supero-posterior view.

extending to about the level of the distal end of the pterostigma; upper sector of the triangle ending between the fifth and sixth transversals or at the level of the fifth, fore-wings, between the sixth and seventh or at the seventh, hind-wings; lower sector of the triangle meeting the quadrilateral at one-fifth to one-sixth of its length, and the postcostal cross-vein very slightly anterior to the wing-border, thus forming a Y-shaped brace with a very short stem. Pterostigma brown, subquadrangular, surmounting one cell. *Abdomen* brown, segments 1, 2 and 8 to 10 without any pale markings, 3 to 7 with a complete basal yellow ring extending rather further apicad dorsally than laterally, occupying the basal 0·08 of 3, 0·10 of 4, 0·12 of 5, 0·13 of 6, 0·24 of 7; on 8 to 10 the basal carina finely black dorsally. *Anal appendages* (figs. 18–21) brown, the superior appendages about three times the length of segment 10, the inferiors subequal to the superiors; in dorsal view the superiors broad basally with a short mesal spine, directed meso-ventrad, at 0·22 of their length, concave exteriorly, becoming narrower and concave interiorly, convex exteriorly, hollowed out mesally, the apices turned meso-caudad; the inferiors convex exteriorly, the apices turned mesad, interiorly straight with a preapical mesal projection, thereafter strongly concave; in lateral view the superiors directed dorso-caudad basally, then sharply caudad and slightly ventrad; the inferiors almost straight, the apices turned mesad and slightly dorsad; no specialised tufts of hairs. *Penis* similar to that of *D. mylitta* (*cf.* figs. 11, 12, but the third segment narrower and the internal fold extending further laterad, markedly visible in dorsal view as lateral projections; shaft-spines absent (or very small).

♀. Only differs from the male as follows :—

Prothorax (fig. 22): the posterior lobe with two posterior projections, in dorsal view flat subquadrangular plates directed caudad and slightly dorsad, 0·23 mm. long, minimum

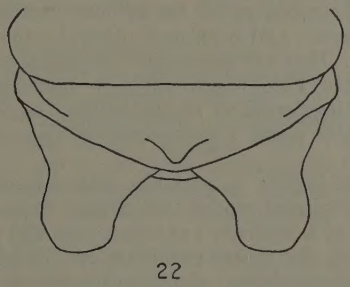


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Fig. 22.—*Drepanosticta megametta* sp. n., allotype ♀, dorsal view of posterior lobe of prothorax.

(All figures from camera lucida drawings, except figs. 3, 4 and 17, which are based on generalised outline-diagrams of the Zygopterous head and pterothorax.)

width 0·21 mm. *Pterothorax* as in the male, but with no anterior (median) black stripe on the mesepisternum, which is rather darker brown medially; the pale yellow spot at the dorsal end of the metepisternum rather larger; the dark part of the metepimeron very dark brown; venter very dark brown, paler brown caudally. *Wings*: postnodals 16 fore-wings, 15, 16, hind-wings; postsubnodals 16 fore-wings, 15 hind-wings; postnodal sector arising at the sixth transversal, fore-wings, at the fifth or between the fifth and sixth, hind-wings; nodal sector arising at the seventh, fore- and hind-wings; subnodal sector arising slightly more than half a postnodal cell distal to the subnodus; median sector arising at the subnodus (slightly distal in the right fore-wing); the distance, from the arculus, of the point of divergence of the principal sector from the anterior side of the quadrilateral less than the basal

side of the quadrilateral; lower sector of the arculus becoming angulate at the fifth transversal, fore-wings, at the sixth or seventh, hind-wings; upper sector of the triangle ending between the fifth and sixth, fore-wings, between the seventh and eighth or at the level of the eighth, hind-wings; lower sector of the triangle meeting the quadrilateral at about one-fourth of its length, and the postcostal cross-vein at the wing-border. *Abdomen* brown, segment 1 with a basal dorsal pale brown quadrangular spot, 2 with vestiges of a basal ring, pale brown, extending further apicad laterally than dorsally, 3 to 7 with pale yellow basal rings, on 3 and 4 extending further apicad laterally than dorsally, on 5 and 6 forming a complete basal ring not extending further apicad laterally than dorsally, on 7 confined to the dorsum, the pale ring occupying the basal 0·11 of 3 and 4, 0·12 of 5, 0·15 of 6, 0·23 of 7; the basal carinae of 3 to 9 narrowly black; 8 to 10 with no pale markings. Length of segment 8, 0·70 mm.; of 9, 0·93 mm.; of 10, 0·33 mm. *Anal appendages* pale brown, subequal in length to segment 10, subtriangular, slightly concave exteriorly, divergent. *Length* of abdomen (including appendages), ♂ 29, ♀ 29 mm.; length of hind-wing, ♂ 18, ♀ 21 mm.; costal length of pterostigma, hind-wing, ♂ 0·74, ♀ 0·79 mm.

1 ♂ (Holotype), 1 ♀ (Allotype), Philippine Islands: Surigao, Mindanao (*C. F. Baker*); in the British Museum.

I have no doubt that the female described above is correctly associated with the male of *D. megametta*, rather than with that of *D. lymetta*, although all four of the British Museum specimens were taken in the same locality by the same collector; but the two males of *D. lymetta* were received by the Museum in 1920, the other two specimens in 1922, and the prothoracic processes and thoracic colour-pattern of the female are much more similar to those of *D. megametta* ♂ than of *D. lymetta* ♂.

The three species described above are at once distinguished from all other known species of the genus, and from each other, by the form of the posterior lobe of the prothorax. They are also easily distinguished from the other three species known from the Philippines, originally described under *Platysticta*, but which should be transferred to *Drepanosticta*; as these three species are not known to me, I give below a paraphrase of their distinctive characters, from Selys (1886):—

D. halterata (Brauer, 1868): ♂, posterior lobe of prothorax prolonged each side as a long fine antenniform process, cylindrical, flattened, thickened at the apex (having the form of a butterfly's antenna), the two processes parallel and lying over the front of the thorax; thorax and abdomen blackish purple, the former without pale markings, abdominal segments 3 to 7 with a dorsal triangular blue spot, dorsum of 9 and 10 blue; distinguished from other species by the capitate prolongations of the prothorax; abd. 35, hw. 24 mm. Luzon.

D. lestoides (Brauer, 1868): ♂, posterior lobe of prothorax without prolongations, slightly emarginate, the sides cut off straight; thorax black with complete yellowish stripes; abdominal segments 1 to 7 brown, 8 to 10 blackish, the basal half of 9 pale yellow dorsally; abd. 43, hw. 25 mm. Mindanao.

D. annulata (Selys, 1886): ♀, posterior lobe of prothorax with a V-shaped hollow medially so as to form two triangular plates; thorax brown with complete pale yellow stripes; abdomen brown, segments 2 to 9 with basal yellow rings; abd. 29, hw. 21 mm. Luzon.

In the absence of representatives of these species I cannot say whether the Philippines species form a group among themselves, although this appears possible. But for their habitat the three species described here would fall in the genus *Ceylonosticta* Fraser, since the internal fold of the penis is present; *D. silenus* Laidlaw (Perak) also has an internal fold, and possibly *D. kruegeri*

Laidlaw (Mentawei Is.; Lieftinck, 1934 : pl. 10, fig. 3). From the original diagnosis of *Ceylonosticta* (Fraser, 1931 : 68; 1933 : 100), that genus is only separated from *Drepanosticta* by the habitat (Ceylon) and the presence of an internal fold to the penis; as at least four species, far removed from Ceylon, have the latter character, I cannot regard the geographical criterion as of any value, and, until further evidence is advanced, regard *Ceylonosticta* as a synonym of *Drepanosticta*. No doubt the genus could, on an extended survey, be divided into groups, possibly even genera. From Fraser's figures (1931 : fig. 2 *a–e*) it might be thought that *Platysticta* and *Ceylonosticta* could be separated by the presence of spines on the shaft of the penis, absent in the figures of *Drepanosticta* and *Protosticta*; but these spines are often very small and easily overlooked, and even when comparatively large great care has sometimes to be taken to be certain of their presence. None of the authors who has studied penes of Platystictidae (Calvert, 1931; Fraser, 1931; Kennedy, 1917; Lieftinck, 1934) has actually mentioned the presence or absence of these spines, but from the figures they are evidently present in *Platysticta deccanensis* Laidlaw, *P. maculata* Selys, *Ceylonosticta tropica* Selys, *C. hilaris* Selys and *Drepanosticta kruegeri* Laidlaw, and I find them present in *D. silenus* Laidlaw and *Protosticta davenporti* Fraser; very small or absent in *Palaemnema* species, and apparently absent in *D. mylitta, D. lymetta, D. megametta, D. carmichaeli* Laidlaw and *Protosticta gravelyi* Laidlaw.*

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* In the above descriptions some characters, mainly venational, are probably of generic value; I hope that the inclusion of such characters may prove useful to any student revising the genus. Similar details will be given in later descriptions of species of apparently heterogeneous or little known genera.